

1. A latch of the sliding-action slam type for installation in an opening in a door panel for releasably retaining the door panel relative to a frame, the latch being moveable between a closed position and an open position when installed in the opening in the door panel, the latch comprising
  - a) a plate, the plate being positioned above the door panel when the latch is mounted in the opening;
  - b) a latch body extending under the plate and through the opening in the panel when the latch is mounted in the panel, the latch body forming a central well, the well extending through the plate, and
  - c) an actuator extending from the latch body for releasably engaging the frame; the actuator being accessible through the central well, the actuator including an integrally formed spring means for biasing the actuator, the actuator travelling from a closed to an open position when the latch is operated against the bias of the spring means.
2. A latch according to claim 1 wherein the plate extends beyond the edge of the door and over the frame when the latch is mounted in the opening and the door is closed, the latch preventing inward travel of the door through the frame.
3. A latch according to claim 1 further comprising camming means for controlling the travel of the actuator.
4. A latch according to claim 3 wherein the latch body includes a first and a second opposed side wall, the first and second side wall having a respective first and second aperture formed therein, the actuator having a first and second pin extending outwardly therefrom for travel within the respective first and second aperture when the latch is operated, the apertures and pins comprising camming means controlling the travel of the actuator when the latch is operated.
5. A latch according to claim 1 wherein the actuator comprises a pawl for engaging the underside of the frame in the closed position.
6. A latch according to claim 5 wherein the pawl includes at least one angled surface for engaging the edge of the frame so that the actuator is pushed back against the spring bias when the panel is slammed shut.
7. A latch according to claim 1 wherein the actuator includes a rear section extending from the back of the latch.

and a pawl for engaging the underside of the frame in the closed position, the pawl extending from the middle section.

8. A latch according to claim 7 wherein the actuator has the form of a continuous folded sheet.
9. A latch according to claim 8 wherein the middle section comprises a rear pleat and a forward pleat, the rear pleat and the forward pleat each comprising a pair of generally planar walls extending downwardly from a respective top portion, each respective top portion being positioned in the plane of the plate when the actuator is in the closed position.
10. A latch according to claim 9 wherein the rear pleat is flexible and the forward pleat is rigid.
11. A latch according to claim 10 wherein the spring means comprises the rear pleat and the rear section.
12. A latch according to claim 1 wherein the latch is formed from a polymeric material resistant to cyclic loading.